

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION established 1939

May 2002 Newsletter

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Springside Greetings!

And a double hurrah for this gloriously colorful season! After a mild but gray winter we crave and relish this pink, lilac, white, and yellow time of rebirth. And you will want to celebrate at our next meeting, Monday, May 20th, 7:30 pm, at the Somerset County Library, when Ron Peer will appear, courtesy of Program Chairwoman, Debbie Tintle. Will Ron do an oil demo? Might he do pastels? Several years ago, we were mightily entertained by Ron as he did a portrait of his wife. We might be treated to a landscape this time. Who knows? Come, be surprised, and enjoy this excellent artist and teacher. It's our last meeting until September; Mary Ann Vaccaro and Artie Dunn are providing goodies; and you must come!

RVAA thanks Debbie Hughes very much for arranging our Big Apple trip on Saturday, April 27th. Perfect weather, great art and companionship, and Debbie even graciously provided coolers of snacks and sodas for the bus trip home. Your editor was fascinated by Artemisia Gentileschi's life and work (with her dad, Orazio). An amazing Baroque artist, she was the first female to fully support herself from her art--this in the early-early 1600s (since then maybe 10 or 12 artists have made a full living from only their painting) (just kidding). There was much more at the Met, of course, as well as AWS at the Salmagundi and the ever-charming Forbes Museum.

Looking ahead to the fall, remember to put our show at Children's Specialized Hospital on your calendar for November. Mary Creasy is in charge of this RVAA show. The NJWCS Full Members Show is still on at the Paper Mill Playhouse (until May 26), SAA's Members Show is up until June 1st, and Lamington until May 8. The 1860 House has several shows all summer, as does the Art Museum at Princeton University. Painting is great at the Leonard Buck Gardens in Bedminster and you can also paint at Colonial Park (fantastic rose gardens) when there's no wedding. You can phone the Somerset County Park Commission for details.

If you are newish to outdoor shows and need to buy racks, Lucy McVicker has 7 racks 6 feet tall, covered in a deep green good-looking cloth (makes the paintings look like they're in a gallery setting), complete with extensions

to make the racks 8' high and all hardware, all for \$175. (considering I paid \$50 per rack 20 years ago, this is great value). 609/924-0699.

The Montgomery Center for the Arts at the 1860 House has many courses, especially for children, offered this summer. Particularly noteworthy is their "Summer Art Camp" June 24--August 16th. Call 609/921-3272, or check out www.montgomerycenterforthearts.org.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

RITA GORKY, JUDY HUMMER, and MARY CREASY all had their work accepted into the juried Bernardsville Public Library Show, which is up until May 27.

DIANA PATTON was awarded Honorable Mention in Westfield Art Association's Members Show. Diana was accepted into the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens juried state show which will have a tour of the gardens and mansion, cocktail party, and jazz on Sunday, June 2. Diana will also be exhibiting with the Creative Artists Guild in the Downstairs Galleries of the 1860 House during July.

CAROL STAUB's painting "North Point" won the Annette Ricciardi Experimental Art Award in the Palm Beach Watercolor Society's 19th Annual Open Juried Exhibition. In the St. Lucie Professional Arts League Community Center Exhibit for the month of April, her painting won First Place, and Carol was also awarded Honorable Mention in the 2002 Annual Four-county Juried Show at the A.E. Bean Backus Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida for her "Merlot".

Many of you enjoyed RUTH WILSON'S demo on pouring watercolor at RVAA and if you want to know more, Ruth has a Workshop through Somerset Art Association. Please call SAA at 234-2345 or Ruth at 526-9048 for more information.

This is the season's last Newsletter. But please keep me posted with notes on your shows, awards, demos, etc. because I'll need lots of news for September's Newsletter. Enjoy your summer!